

Leith 1856

~~16 d~~

~~134, A.~~

Box X, 97.E

97.E Box. 0185

REPORT

OF THE

LEITH NAUTICAL SCHOOL

DRAWN UP BY THE SECRETARY

AND READ AT THE CLOSE OF THE FIRST
PUBLIC EXAMINATION

1st AUGUST 1856

LEITH
PRINTED BY REID & SON
1856



Leith Nautical School

IN CONNECTION WITH

THE BOARD OF TRADE.

Local Managers and Visitors

JAMES TAYLOR, Esq., *Provost of Leith* ;

STEPHEN ADAM, Esq., *Senior Bailie* ;

WALTER PATON, Esq., *Master of Trinity House* ;

R. SINCLAIR, Esq., *Assistant ditto* ;

D. M'LAREN, Esq., *Chairman of Chamber of Commerce* ;

GEORGE BELL, Esq., *appointed by the Committee of Seamen's Friend
Society* ;

R. DE LA CONDAMINE, Esq., *ditto* ;

ROBERT WATT, Esq., *appointed by the Local Marine Board* ;

WILLIAM LINDSAY, Esq., *ditto*.

Secretary

REV. JOHN THOMSON, A.M.

HR
28.8.96

REPORT

THE LEITH NAUTICAL SCHOOL has been in existence now for *ten* months. The design of the present brief report—drawn up by appointment of the Managers—is to state the success of the School during these months as an Educational Institute, and its present position as to funds.

I.—SUCCESS.—The School, as established with the concurrence of the Board of Trade, consists, it will be remembered, of *three* distinct departments :—

1. First, a department for the professional education of such persons as have been already at sea, with a view to qualify them for undergoing those examinations which must be passed successfully in order to obtain certificates as mates and masters of merchant vessels. In this department the success has been most gratifying, both as regards *attendance* and *attainments*. 12 Masters, 19 mates, 47 seamen, and 26 ship apprentices, in all 104 sea-going men, have, in the course of ten months, received instruction at this School. Of these, 7 masters have obtained certificates of competency, 10 mates have obtained masters' certificates, and 11 seamen have obtained "only mates' certificates,"—in all, 28 adult pupils have passed successfully their respective examinations.

2. The second department of the School is that which provides for the education of trade apprentices and mechanics. Of the

former, 28, and of the latter 9, have attended the School; and although no test can be applied in their case, as in the case of the others, by which their proficiency may be tried, it is gratifying to be able to state that Mr NEWTON reports most favourably on their attention and application; and also, on the other hand, in so far as has come under the notice of the Secretary, the adult pupils have uniformly expressed themselves in the strongest terms as to the kindness, devotedness, and skill of Mr NEWTON.

3. The third department of the School is the *Boys' Day School*. The immediate design of this School is to afford to youths destined for the sea a thorough knowledge of mathematics, navigation, and kindred subjects, *before* entering upon their profession. At the same time, the Board of Trade has from the beginning been desirous to extend the benefits of this School to the community at large; and it has accordingly been constituted as a *Secondary* or advanced School, under the name of THE LEITH SCHOOL OF SCIENCE (GENERAL as well as NAUTICAL.) The specific character of the education is, that it be of a more thoroughly *practical* character, bearing more directly upon the actual business of life than is common in other Schools. The School is designed, as Dr PLAYFAIR said at its opening, to be to the working classes, and among these to seamen, in some respects like a College, the practical education which it imparts to the children of working men, or to youths destined for the sea, corresponding to the professional education which a College provides for those destined for the learned professions. In accordance with this, its specific character, it does not profess to compete with any Schools already established: it rather aims at taking up youths who are about to leave school, and endeavours to retain them, with a view to their ultimate advantage, *longer* at school than they otherwise would have remained. The formation of a School of this kind in Leith it was foreseen from the beginning would be a work of great difficulty—a work which it would require probably several years to accomplish. Leith is most happily well supplied with Schools for all classes of the community, and in most of these Schools education is in a high state of advancement; and although this School sup-

plies a real educational want, yet that want not only has not been felt, but is of such a kind as is not easy at once to make the community feel. Then there are comparatively few youths who seek to qualify themselves for the sea *before* entering upon that profession. Parents also are frequently averse to their sons entering upon a sea-faring life, and will avoid a school the education given at which may be likely to create or foster a passion for the sea. It is also of course difficult to change the habits of people in regard to the age at which children are withdrawn from school and sent to a business. The experiment, however, is a very important one. In educational matters there is no point so urgent as the extension of the brief period of the school life of working people; and it is manifest that nothing can be conceived better fitted to be effective in bringing about this change than the distinctive education of this School, presenting as it does a substantial equivalent which the people see at once far more than counterbalances the immediate loss which they sustain in protracting the school life of their children. This department therefore of the School, small as the attendance has yet been, will require only a little time to ensure its complete success. Meanwhile, the other departments are already most prosperous, and so long as these are carried on this department costs nothing; and on the other hand, when its numbers shall have increased, the fees drawn will form no inconsiderable portion of the revenue of the whole School. The number of pupils has been only seventeen. To-day's examination has tested the proficiency of such of them as remain at this date at School.

The total number of pupils in all the departments has been ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTY-EIGHT.

II.—FUNDS.—A few sentences on the subject of funds shall close this Report. The funds are of two kinds: 1, Fund for ordinary expenses; 2, Fund for fitting up and opening the School.

1. Fund for ordinary expenses. This arises from the fees drawn in the School. These, during the first nine months, have amounted, in round numbers, to £50 (exactly £49, 19s.) Of this, Mr NEWTON

has received the one half, and the balance between this and the proportion of £100 per annum he has received (or is to receive) from the Board of Trade (viz., £50.) The other half of the fees remains in the hands of the Managers for local expenses, viz., rent of school-room, cleaning, fuel, gas, &c. ; and for these expenses it is likely to prove sufficient. When any balance shall emerge, arising from an increase of the pupils, the Board of Trade has already suggested its appropriate destination—the employment, namely, of an Assistant Teacher.

The guarantee by the Board of Trade to make up the Teacher's salary to £100 per annum will of course, after a limited period, cease. But the Board of Trade has already issued a graduated scale of certificates of merit to be gained by their Teachers rising as high as £50. The School, therefore, in the hands of a Teacher of due mental attainments and energy in his profession, cannot but be self-supporting. There can be no such thing as a yearly call for voluntary subscriptions to maintain the School. Nay, more, the aid given to it by the Board of Trade ceasing to be a mere discretionary grant, and becoming a reward of merit as ascertained by conformity on the part of the Teacher to a prescribed standard, the School no longer rests on a precarious footing, but becomes established in perpetuity as a permanent institution. The Board of Trade have announced that "at the annual examination of the Navigation Schools awards will be made, consisting in the aggregate of two sextants and five cases of instruments, and bronze medals, the latter of which will not exceed four to each school ;" and further, that "in the case of adult seamen who compete in the examination for prizes, the awards will be reported to the Board of Trade, and a favourable mark will be made in the Registry of Seamen in favour of the successful candidate."

2. The Fund for fitting up and opening the School. The sum of £72, 3s 6d was contributed by various parties in Leith favourable to the formation of this School. The objects for which these subscriptions were raised were, first, the purchase of suitable apparatus, and second, the defrayment of the expenses which might

be incurred in fitting up the school-room with proper furniture, and in advertisements. The Board of Trade generously offered to defray half the cost of the apparatus to the value of £200. The outlay and liabilities of the Managers have been as follows :—

Paid to Messrs Chapman & Hall for Apparatus to the value of £111, 18s	£55 19 0
Freight from London of ditto	0 4 6
Paid to Mr Anderson, Town Clerk	12 0 0
Paid to Mr Saunders, Wright	15 5 1
Due to Messrs Reid & Son for Printing and Books.....	10 1 1
Due to <i>North British Advertiser</i>	5 10 9
Due to <i>Leith Herald</i> , probably about	3 0 0
	£102 0 5
Deduct.....	72 3 6
	£29 16 11

leaving (in round numbers) £30 due by the Managers, which they have no funds whatever in their hands to meet. Moreover, the School is as yet imperfectly supplied with needful apparatus. The Board of Trade are willing to expend yet £44 on this object, provided an equal sum be raised by the Managers. A sum, therefore, of £74 requires still to be raised in Leith to put the School on a proper footing. And when it is remembered that, by the arrangements of the Board of Trade, the School in future years must support itself, it is hoped that no difficulty will be experienced in raising this sum among the merchants and shipowners of Leith. It is not saying too much to affirm, that the views of the Board of Trade, so enlightened, so liberal, so patriotic, and carried out with so much skill and energy, ought to be responded to with ready liberality by local parties. The School cannot but be a great boon to the town. In its establishment and management men of all parties and of all shades of opinion are happily united. It is part also of a widely extended scheme, in which Leith has taken the lead, and which the Board of Trade is at present actively carrying out in all the leading sea-ports of Great Britain and Ireland, fraught with immense consequences to the COMMERCE OF THE COUNTRY AT LARGE.

SUBSCRIPTION LIST

FOR THE

ESTABLISHMENT OF A NAUTICAL SCHOOL AT LEITH.

17th May to 9th August 1855.

The Trinity House .	£10	0	0	Messrs William Laing	£0	10	0
The Provost of Leith .	2	0	0	Reid and Son .	0	10	0
Messrs John Smith .	1	0	0	David Smith .	0	10	0
George Bell .	1	0	0	Robert Sinclair .	1	0	0
Walter Paton .	1	0	0	Thomas Lindsay .	1	0	0
William Lindsay .	1	0	0	D. R. Macgregor .	1	0	0
R. de la Condamine .	1	0	0	P. Gavin and Son .	1	0	0
Robert Mathie .	1	0	0	James Hay .	1	0	0
James Cowan .	1	0	0	David Walker .	1	0	0
William Gillespie .	1	0	0	William Kay .	1	0	0
Bell, Rannie, & Co. .	1	0	0	Robert Wright .	1	0	0
Watt, Yule, and Co. .	1	0	0	Peter Souther .	0	5	0
Thomas Robertson .	1	0	0	Andrew Lind .	0	5	0
John Gillon and Co. .	1	0	0	Chamber of Commerce .	2	0	0
D. M'Laren and Co. .	0	10	0	Messrs Robert Lawrie .	1	0	0
Alexander Turnbull .	0	10	0	Robert Mowbray, jun. .	1	0	0
James Duncan .	0	10	0	James Braidwood .	0	10	0
Scott and Allan .	0	10	0	James Dickson .	1	0	0
D. and G. M'Laren .	1	0	0	Old Shipping Company .	1	0	0
Alexander Whyte .	1	0	0	Messrs A. Thomson .	0	10	0
John Warrack .	1	0	0	W. Steven .	0	10	0
Captain Thomson .	0	5	0	William Anderson .	0	10	0
Messrs A. M'Leod .	0	10	0	A. Paterson .	0	10	0
John Inkster .	1	1	0	G. Hunter .	0	5	0
M. C. Gibson .	1	0	0	Richard Miller .	0	5	0
T. and P. Smith .	0	10	0	William Calder .	0	10	0
Alison and Cowan .	0	10	0	J. T. Rose and Co. .	0	10	6
Baillie Adam .	1	0	0	George Menzies .	0	10	6
Hugh Morton .	0	10	0	James Dickson .	1	0	0
Christopher Wood .	0	10	0	John Crabbie and Co. .	1	0	0
R. and J. Park .	0	10	0	D. R. Macgregor (second subscription) .	1	0	0
Baillie Broadfoot .	1	0	0	W. Lindsay (ditto) .	1	0	0
William Muir .	1	0	0	John Gillon and Co. .	0	10	0
Story, Macandrew, & Co. .	0	10	0	John Pourie and Son .	0	10	0
James Wishart & Sons .	1	0	0	William Calder (second subscription) .	0	10	0
David Thom .	0	10	0	J. T. Rose & Co. (ditto) .	0	10	6
Richard Miller .	1	0	0	A Friend .	0	5	0
W. Wood .	1	0	0	D. H. .	0	10	0
Richardson Brothers .	0	10	6	James Miller & Sons .	1	0	0
John M'Nair .	0	10	6				
James Taylor .	0	10	0				
William Thomson .	0	10	0				
S. and P. S. Beveridge .	0	10	0				
				Total	£72	3	6